Net Zero Week

Webinar Summary

Climate resilience of UK assets through standardization

Date: Monday, 23 September 2024 Time: 10.00 – 12.00 GMT Location: Online Facilitated by: Clare Price, Built Environment Sector Lead, BSI



Amid growing environmental uncertainties, the UK's focus on enhancing infrastructure resilience against climate impacts has never been more critical. This focus was brought to light during the Net Zero Week which convened leading experts to discuss the integration of standardization in fortifying UK assets against the changing climate.

The UK continues to spearhead efforts to incorporate climate resilience within its infrastructure strategies. This webinar highlighted the significant role of standardization in developing infrastructure that is robust enough to handle both current and anticipated climate challenges.

Technological Integration and Innovation

The webinar highlighted the double-edged nature of rapid technological evolution, presenting both challenges and opportunities for standardization. Experts discussed how emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and smart analytics, must align with robust standards to enhance the resilience and responsiveness of infrastructure systems.



Employing Adaptation Pathways

Adaptation pathways are increasingly recognized as vital tools for strategic infrastructure resilience planning. These pathways allow for adjustments based on evolving climate data and technological advancements, providing a flexible approach to manage the uncertainties of long-term climate forecasting. This strategy supports dynamic planning, ensuring infrastructure can adapt to changing conditions.

Technological Integration and Innovation

The webinar underscored the critical interplay between new standards and existing regulations, emphasizing the need for seamless integration of resilience measures. Participants called for clearer governmental guidelines and enhanced support, suggesting that such measures are essential for the effective implementation of standardized resilience practices across the UK's infrastructure landscape.

The discussion highlighted the need for different strategies to build resilience into infrastructure. New projects can integrate the latest resilience technologies from the start while retrofitting older structures presents challenges that require complex upgrades and assessments. Examples included updates to water management systems and improvements to transportation infrastructure to handle severe weather.

Sector-specific insights were also shared, showing how various sectors are addressing resilience through standardization. For example, the energy sector is using advanced predictive technologies to improve grid resilience and better anticipate weather-related disruptions.



Strategic Recommendations for Future Initiatives

- The discussions underscored the need for robust collaboration across industries to pool knowledge, technologies, and resources. This collaborative approach is crucial for developing more comprehensive resilience strategies that can be standardized across sectors.
- Continuous innovation in materials and methods was highlighted as essential. There was a consensus on the need for standards to be regularly updated to reflect the latest scientific understandings and technological advancements.

Throughout the webinar, it became clear that standardization is essential for advancing climate resilience in the UK's infrastructure. The dialogue not only showcased practical applications and sector-specific strategies but also aligned stakeholders on the importance of a unified approach to resilience.

The event highlighted the necessity for continuous updates and innovations in resilience standards to keep pace with technological advancements and evolving climate challenges.

Stakeholders are urged to integrate these strategies into their ongoing and future projects, ensuring that the infrastructure is robust and flexible enough to withstand environmental shifts.

<u>Watch the webinar</u> to learn more about how standardization is enhancing the climate resilience of UK infrastructure.



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